IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving channel observation information;

computing at least one parameter for distributed control, said at least one parameter for distributed control including at least one distribution parameter, and said computing being based at least in part on said channel observation information; and

transmitting said at least one parameter for distributed control, wherein said at least one distribution parameter relates to a restriction on traffic over a basic access channel, said restriction being based at least in part on message length, and wherein said distribution parameter relates to distributing traffic among at least said basic access channel and a reserved access channel.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a time dimension of said basic access channel is divided into a series of adjacent and nonoverlapping slots, and

wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel during a predetermined one of said slots.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one persistence parameter,

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wherein said persistence parameter relates to retransmission of messages.

7.   (Previously Presented) A node interface transmitter configured and arranged to transmit at least one parameter for distributed control to at least one among a plurality of nodes, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one distribution parameter and said at least one parameter for distributed control is based at least in part on channel observation information, and wherein said at least one distribution parameter relates to a restriction on traffic over a basic access channel, said restriction being based at least in part on message length, and wherein said distribution parameter relates to distributing traffic among at least said basic access channel and a reserved access channel.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Previously Presented) The node interface transmitter according to claim 7, wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel.

10.   (Previously Presented) The node interface transmitter according to claim 7, wherein a time dimension of said basic access channel is divided into a series of adjacent and nonoverlapping slots, and
    wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel during a predetermined one of said slots.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Original) The node interface transmitter according to claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one persistence parameter,
    wherein said persistence parameter relates to retransmission of messages.

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13.   (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a node interface transmitter to transmit at least one parameter for distributed control to at least one among a plurality of nodes, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one distribution parameter; and

a node interface receiver to receive messages from at least one among the plurality of nodes over at least a basic access channel,

wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control is based at least in part on channel observation information, and said channel observation information relates at least in part to said basic access channel, and

wherein said at least one distribution parameter relates to a restriction on traffic over said basic access channel, said restriction being based at least in part on message length, and wherein said distribution parameter relates to distributing traffic among at least said basic access channel and a reserved access channel.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 13, wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel.

16.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 13, wherein a time dimension of said basic access channel is divided into a series of adjacent and nonoverlapping slots, and

wherein said channel observation information relates at least in part to activity on said basic access channel during a predetermined one of said slots.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Original) The system according to claim 13, wherein said at least one parameter for distributed control includes at least one persistence parameter,

wherein said persistence parameter relates to retransmission of messages.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving at least one distribution and one persistence parameter;

receiving at least one characteristic of a message;

choosing one among at least a basic access channel and a reserved access channel, said choosing being based at least in part on a relation between said at least one characteristic and said at least one distribution parameter;

transmitting said message over said chosen channel; and

retransmitting said message, wherein said retransmitting occurs at least in part according to said at least one persistence parameter.

20.   (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein said at least one characteristic relates to at least a length of said message.

21.   (Cancelled)

22.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[21]] 19, said method further comprising generating at least one random number,

wherein said retransmitting occurs at least in part according to a relation between said at least one random number and said at least one persistence parameter.

23.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a transmitter to transmit a message over one among a basic access channel and a reserved access channel;

a receiver to receive at least one distribution parameter; and

a processor to receive at least one characteristic of a message,

wherein said processor further chooses one among at least said basic access channel and said reserved access channel, said choice based at least in part on a relation between said at least one characteristic and said at least one distribution parameter, and

wherein said transmitter further transmits said message at least in part according to said choice; and wherein said receiver further receives at least one persistence parameter and said processor further causes said transmitter to retransmit said message at least in part according to said at least one persistence parameter.

24.   (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said at least one characteristic relates to at least a length of said message.

25.   (Cancelled)

26.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[25]] 23, said processor further generates at least one random number,

wherein said processor further causes said transmitter to retransmit said message at least in part according to a relation between said at least one random number and said at least one persistence parameter.